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The Hindenburg bogey is being disipated into thin air.

It is by means of Lens that the British see their way to victory.

The angry switching of the British lion's tail reaches way over into Mesopotamia in the meantime.

No doubt the immediate career of Prof. Anton H. Appelmann of the University of Vermont will be watched with interest.

The Barre chapter of the Red Cross society has made an auspicious start. There ought to be a large accession of members immediately, so that the relief work can go on briskly.

The isolation of a smallpox patient at Essex Junction is good but not wholly reassuring to people along the line between Springfield, Mass., and Essex Junction, over which the patient traveled.

Former official reports given out by the Berlin war office told about the happenings on the front commanded by the German crown prince. Later there has been a suspicious silence about the activities of the German crown prince in the warfare. There is a bare possibility that the crown prince has been withdrawn to a safer place for a potential royal head.

An apparently well-grounded statement that there is not enough labor at present on the farms of the United States to carry on the farming operations necessary to feed the American people, to say nothing of feeding part of the starving world, is incentive enough for the "Plant An Acre" movement, as well as to eliminate unnecessary waste of food at the present time.

That attempted incendiaryism in the vicinity of North Duxbury indicates that there may be some pro-German supporters who are taking lightly that law recently passed by the Vermont legislature relative to punishment for just that kind of act during the time of war. An attempt to burn a mill which has recently been engaged in turning out war material for one of the entente allies is most certainly a violation of that act.

Again carelessness is crowned supreme. A smoker snapped a cigar or cigarette stub at random in the Putney town hall, and before the firemen could put a check to the movement started by him a damage of \$5,000 had been done to the building and contents. It would be the proper punishment to make the person pay the penalty either by handing over the amount lost or by working it out until every last cent was paid. That might teach him a lesson in prudence and perhaps a few others along with him.

Such a disaster as the sinking of the great steamship Titanic five years ago, with the loss of over 1,500 lives, stupendous as it seemed at the time, pales into insignificance in comparison with the Titanic losses sustained at sea during the present clash of the world. The destruction of the single great ship five years ago is but a mere incident alongside of the far more tragic events that are constantly taking place nowadays and at which the world shudders for a time and then waits for something even more terrible to happen. The universal vision of calamities has changed marvellously since Aug. 1, 1914.

One drawback of the plan to raise a huge army of crop producers in the United States is that there are not enough skilled agricultural leaders at liberty to direct the operations. In that respect we are just as weak as we are in raising an army of 2,000,000 men, there being a marked shortage of officers. It would take a year of mistakes for a considerable part of the army of crop producers to know how to do it right; and that would be a year put to no tangible advantage and just when we need results. The ultimate benefits, however, would be large; and the plan is not to be opposed for that reason, any more than one should decry the raising of an adequate army.

The trouble with our preparedness seems to be that the ship builders and the munitions manufacturers tell us what they will be able to do six months or a year from now and they tell us nothing about what they can do now despite the fact that the war has been raging for nearly three years and despite the fact that for months it has been evident that the United States would become a party to the war. As far as ships and munitions are concerned, we have been just joggling along like an old horse that hits a lazy stride and won't get out of it till lashed ferociously. A sharp blow from Germany would be just the incentive needed to stir up the inactivity of the United States.

THE HOUSE VOTE ON THE REVENUE MEASURE.

The unanimous vote cast in the national House of Representatives Saturday afternoon for the \$7,000,000,000 war revenue measure reveals the well-nigh solid support back of the United States government in the vigorous prosecution of the war against Germany. Out of the

389 votes cast in the rollcall not one was against the measure, only one member, Representative London, Socialist, of New York state, declining to vote and responding "Present" when his name was called. There was some honest opposition, along with the pro-German element, to the declaration of war against Germany, and to the outside observer the 60 votes in the House might have meant a more or less divided country in a very important crisis. If the latter is the case, the opinion thus formed must have been entirely swept away by the vote of last Saturday afternoon. It is a united United States—united in the purpose to carry through its part of the war in defense of the rights of humanity as against the selfish aggression of autocracy and united also in the purpose to uphold the honor and integrity of the government at Washington. The vote of Saturday goes to all the world as a convincing proof that the United States is in the war with serious purpose to carry out both those aims. Now let the Senate be as emphatic in its vote in authorizing the immense loan. Let the president sign the bill promptly and then let the people of the United States do their part toward raising the amount called for. The money will be a great moral and material encouragement to our allies across the water.

CURRENT COMMENT

Enduring Granite for Roads.

Barre City furnishes a good example of what granite paved streets means. It has streets where the granite blocks were put down 17 years ago and very little has been expended since the blocks were laid. It will take something like granite blocks to keep roads in shape for the high-powered automobiles.—Waterbury Record.

What Groton Would Do.

Vermont National Guard is once more called to duty, the second time within a year. The towns from which the 12 companies are called are supporting them loyally. St. Johnsbury, our county seat, supplies a full company and has a half a hundred men on the waiting list and has a right to feel proud of herself. Montpelier, our state capital, has the smallest company in the regiment, less than 75 men, and Barre in her back yard at that. Too bad! Too bad!

Seems as if Groton could get out almost as many as that with a population of less than one-tenth the capital's. We feel assured if the call comes for volunteers, and it no doubt will within a very few days, that she will do more than her share, as she always has in the past.—Groton Times.

The Case of Prof. Appelmann.

The investigation to which Prof. Appelmann of the University of Vermont has been subjected, by various committees of the university and now by the United States government, has resulted in giving him a clean bill of health.

It was inevitable that following the charges made against him in the New York press, and rumors that were afloat, his status should be questioned and scrutinized. Just as death is said to love a shining mark, so suspicion is more likely to fall upon an alien holding a prominent position in church or state in these days of strong feelings. The professor himself has sought the widest investigation of his conduct, and it seems that the government has accepted the challenge, and has on file a complete record of his activity.

It is a matter of congratulation that at this early stage of the affair the government gives its O. K. to Prof. Appelmann, so that he can pursue his work as a teacher without suspicion or hindrance.—Rutland Herald.

Stick It Out, Mr. Wilson.

The president will win his battle with Congress for universal service—or "selective conscription," as he prefers to call it—if he only brings into play the same bulldog determination that he exhibited in behalf of his original tariff bill and the confirmation of Mr. Brandeis. The president would thereby be winning the greatest victory of his career. His Republican opponents refused at Chicago, last June, to write the words "universal service" into their platform. We still take it for granted that Congress is opposed to the idea. Labor, with a large I, opposes. Mr. Gompers says so. Oklahoma is holding mass meetings in resistance. On a referendum, the middle west would give an overwhelming majority against conscription, and largely because the people persist in misunderstanding what it means.

Nevertheless, the president can win his fight. The press of the country, to a surprising degree, is with him. All former secretaries of war, Republican and Democratic, are with him. The general staff of army and navy are professionalists attached to his course. In fine, everybody who knows anything at all about war under modern conditions realizes that we might as well expect to succeed with voluntary tax-paying as with voluntary bullet stopping. England and Canada have had a dismal and expensive time of it in trying to get along on the voluntary basis, to the extent that

they have adhered to it. Every argument in experience, as well as in logic, calls for universal liability. If the president will only stand his ground, he will eventually prevail upon Congress. We should like to congratulate him on winning so notable a victory. And we believe he can do it.—Boston Herald.

The New Wooden Fleet.

Lloyd George had foreknowledge of the war plans of the United States government when he said in his speech yesterday that the absolute assurance of victory was to be found in the word "ships." According to Hindenburg's assurance to the German people, American efforts will have no important effect upon the war; but the field marshal may have underestimated American capacity and resources. Great Britain could not possibly be starved out this summer, if the worst should happen. There will be harvests in the British isles, and thereafter will come the severest test of the German offensive with the U-boat. Then will American plans prove effective.

The appointment of Maj-Gen. Goethals to supervise the building of hundreds of standardized wooden steamships of 2000 tons and upward means the perfection of a project which is as likely as anything to have a decisive effect upon the war. It is a pleasure to observe that the government's plans have a scope that show a firm grasp on the problem. The ships are to be small, they should be fast, and by the end of the first year they will be so numerous as to defy the utmost efforts of the submarines. The first 200-ton ship is expected to be ready within six months, and 12 months later there will be at least 1,000 of them constructed. In time the yards will turn out the ships much as a Ford factory turns out automobiles.

The wooden fleet, armed and equipped with every device for meeting submarine attack, will supplement the steel tonnage now being constructed in Great Britain, Japan and America. If the U-boat cannot do better than sink 500,000 tons of shipping a month, their battle is surely lost. For in the coming autumn, the United States will be turning out each month no less than 200,000 tons of the new wooden cargo carriers, and the combined steel and wooden construction of the leading entente powers and the United States will so nearly balance the destructive power of the submarine that the struggle for supremacy will be decided.

The wooden steamships built for this war service will not become useless in peace, although their cost of construction will be very high. After the war the worst shortage in all kinds of shipping will be extreme and the demand for tonnage while the new steel shipping is being constructed will be such as to keep in trade everything that floats. If the United States government builds this wooden fleet for war purposes, it is probable that it may ultimately dispose of it so profitably that much of the expenditure will be returned to the treasury.—Springfield Republican.

"LEGISLATIVE LEADERS"

Rutland Herald Names Men It Calls Dependable.

Leadership develops at its best—from a popular viewpoint—in the Vermont House of Representatives rather than in the Senate. There is also considerable difference between real leadership and floor leadership, the latter being a most disappointing and uncertain quality.

Despite the increased importance of committee work, ability to present a question on the floor of the House, strongly and convincingly, still remains one of the final tests of leadership, but it is only one factor.

The true test is character, exhibited in those qualities of resolution, integrity, fairness, ability and diligence that most appeal to his fellows. Combined with the faculty of talking opportunely and convincingly, such qualities affect leadership.

To compile a list of the strong men of the House compels one to be invidious. Men to be reckoned with on nearly every public problem were undoubtedly:

Fenton of Rutland;
 Moore of Ludlow;
 Howland of Barre;
 Cudworth of Londonderry;
 Pollard of Cavendish;
 Metzger of Randolph;
 Phelps of Fair Haven.

It would even be dangerous to call them the Big Seven, because any of them might easily have been surpassed by any one of a dozen other members, who specialized in some particular line. These men, however, took special interest in practically all legislative problems.

Mr. Fenton had two important committee chairmanships—state and court expenses and joint rules—and he was also a member of the highly important judiciary and temperance committees. He and Mr. Moore differed widely in methods. Where the gentleman from Ludlow was succinct, incisive and thorough master of the art of debate, the gentleman from Rutland was bluff, open, inclined to carry things through with a rush and adept in the rough-and-tumble style of debate.

Both men were diligent in committee work. Mr. Moore as head of the committee on ways and means and rules also serving faithfully on the enormous detail of the judiciary committee.

Perhaps the best way to state their differing methods is to say that Mr. Fenton was considered a good man to have with you and Mr. Moore a dangerous man to have against you.

Mr. Howland is not a brilliant member, but was rated one of the solid, dependable men of the House. His previous legislative experience, his knowledge of business, banking and insurance and his sound, conservative views on public matters easily entitle him to a place among the first seven.

As head of the committee on judiciary, Addison E. Cudworth performed a huge amount of work, despite his admitted age of 65 years. His precise, emphatic methods of speech, his knowledge of law and public questions and his fine personal character made him a recognized authority, so that his leadership was natural and unforced.

Mr. Pollard joined with Mr. Howland as lay members of the committee on judiciary, and, by virtue of his fearless, free-fighting methods, made himself no mean opponent of the trained legal debaters of the House. With practically every member of the committee against them, Pollard and Howland not only got the Stearns court bill reported out, but, after the Senate had sent the wreck back, they succeeded in placing the responsibility exactly where it belongs—with the upper house. The House refused to consent.

Fraser Metzger was easily the orator of the House. In addition to a classic eulogy on Chaplain Farman, the man from Randolph proved his eloquence on other occasions, especially in connection with the suffrage debates and the various administration measures. His committee on state institutions made a record for



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rapidity in investigating the Brandon school, but it is as an orator that Metzger will be best remembered.

In picking Phelps out of a group which includes Ladleur of Middlebury, Reiden of Barton, Stearns of Burlington and Steele of Highgate, The Herald admits that county pride weighs strongly. Phelps had an important chairmanship, he listened to miles of suffrage appeals, he was a member of the judiciary committee, he shone strongly in debate and—he comes from the real country.

One must note Ladleur's strength as a floral debater. Reiden's arduous work on the retreat investigation, Stearns' single-handed House victory for customs brokerage in order to get the proper angle, but The Herald believes Phelps belongs on the basis of service, efficiency and public influence.—Rutland Herald.

VICTORY WAS WON

BY AID OF DUST

British Kicked Up Earth with Shells and Under Cover of Screen Thus Formed They Cross DIALA River and Eventually Were Able to Capture Bagdad.

Bagdad, Mesopotamia, April 16.—The much-maligned dust of the Tigris valley was an important factor in the taking of Bagdad by the British army. It was a dust storm, so thick that one could not see four feet in front of him, that enabled the engineers to bridge the DIALA river, where the Turks made their last stand.

The last battle before Bagdad is likely to become historic mainly on account of the fighting at the crossing of the DIALA, about eleven miles from Bagdad. It was necessary to cross opposite the village of DIALA, where the stream is about 120 yards wide, in the face of an enemy sheltered behind thick houses, walls, and gardens, armed with machine guns and rifles. There were two days of very desperate fighting before the crossing was effected.

The attack on the night of March 7 was checked, but the quality of courage shown has never been surpassed in war. Immediately the first pontoon was lowered over the ramp, the whole launching party was shot down in a few seconds. It was bright moonlight, and the Turks had concentrated their machine guns in the houses on the opposite bank. A second pontoon reached the middle of the stream when a terrific fusillade was opened on it. The crew of five rowers and ten riflemen was killed, and the boat floated downstream. A third boat got nearly across the river but was bombed and sunk. All the crew was killed, but there was no holding back.

The orders still held to secure the passage. Crew after crew pushed off to an obvious and certain death. The second and third groups of pontoon crews were exterminated in the same way, and their pontoons drifted into the Tigris to float past the British camp in the daylight with the freight of dead. The pontoon parties were volunteers, so chosen that all battalions of the brigade would share the honors of the night. The loss of all the available pontoons finally stopped the efforts to cross the river.

On the second night the attempt was resumed with equal gallantry. But this time the attack was preceded by a bombardment. Registering by artillery had been impossible on the first day in the speed of the pursuit. It was the artillery barrage that finally secured the troops their footing—not the shells themselves, but the dust storm raised by them. The dust, fine particles of dried Tigris mud, was so thick that it formed a curtain behind which ten boats were able to cross.

Afterwards, in the clear moonlight, when the guns were waiting for ammunition and the dust curtain had lifted, the conditions of the preceding night were re-established. Succeeding crossings parties were exterminated, and pontoons drifted away, but a footing had been secured. The crew of one pontoon which lost its way in the dust cloud, failed to make the bank in time. Directly the air cleared, a machine gun was opened on them, and the rowers were shot down and the pontoon drifted back to the shore. A sergeant called for volunteers to get the wounded out of the boat, and a party of twelve men went over the river bank. Every man of them, as well as the crew of the boat, was killed.

Sixty men had gained a foothold on the other bank of the DIALA. They got together and started bombing along the bank. They were soon heavily pressed by the Turks on both flanks, and found themselves between two clumps of woods. Here they discovered a providential natural position. A break in the river levee had been repaired by a new levee built in a half moon on the landward side. This formed a perfect lunette. The sixty soldiers, surrounded on all sides but the water, held it through the night, all the next day, and the next night against repeated and determined attacks.

The attacks were delivered in the dark and at dawn. The Turks only attacked once in the daylight, as the British machine guns on the other bank swept the ground in front of the position. Twenty yards west of the lunette there was a thin grove of mulberries and palms. The pontoon position was most vulnerable on this side and it was here that the Turkish attacks were most frequent. British artillery fire, intermittent day and night, on the wood, afforded some protection. The whole affair was visible to the British troops on the south side, who encouraged their comrades by shouting. Attempts were made to get a cable across by means of a rocket, in order to pass the little band of sixty more ammunition, but the attempt was unsuccessful.

Twice during the nights of March 9 and 10 the Turks were on top of the parapet, but were driven back. One more determined rush would have carried the lunette, but the little garrison, now reduced to forty, kept their heads and maintained cool control of their fire. A corporal was seen searching for loose rounds and emptying the bandoliers of the dead. In the end they were reduced almost to their last clip of cartridges, and they had only one bomb left, but there were more than a hundred Turkish dead outside the redoubt.

On the morning of the 10th, British troops upstream had begun to turn the Turkish flank, and a general retirement began. By 9:30 a. m. the whole brigade had crossed and the fate of Bagdad was sealed.

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SEWAGE DISPOSAL. Important Part of Farm Sanitation Which Should Receive Greater Attention.

Because the sewage from homes is a poisonous substance in which the specific germs or poisons of numerous serious diseases may lurk, much greater care should be taken by dwellers in the country in the disposal of the wastes than is usually bestowed on the matter. This is pointed out in an article, "Sewage Disposal on the Farm," in the 1916 yearbook of the United States department of agriculture.

Infection from such a source often is transmitted insidiously and may come from the swirling dust of the railway roadbed, from personal or indirect contact with transitory or chronic carriers of disease, from green truck grown in gardens fertilized with night soil or sewage, from food prepared or touched by unclean hands or visited by flies and vermin, from milk handled by sickly and careless dairymen, or milk cans and utensils washed with polluted water from wells, springs, brooks and lakes receiving the surface wash or the underground drainage from sewage-polluted soil, and from many other sources.

The cardinal principle in sewage disposal, it is pointed out, whatever the system and methods employed, is to have the waste materials finally deposited far from wells and other sources of water supply.

A number of methods of sewage disposal, including the use of cesspools and septic tanks, are described in detail in the article. The latter method it is believed generally is the safest and least troublesome. Though the proper disposal of sewage will involve some considerable expenditure of money, there is little ground, the article states, for the more or less general belief that the benefits of

good plumbing and sewer systems cost little in the city but are almost prohibitive in the country. The greater value of property per family in rural communities when compared with that of some cities where efficient sewage systems are in existence should justify the necessary expenditure for adequate means of sewage disposal in the country. The actual construction and plumbing work can be done, it is pointed out, more cheaply in the country in most cases than in the city.

GRANITEVILLE.

The ladies' aid society will meet with Mrs. N. A. McDonald, upper Graniteville, Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

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